

REMARKS

The examiner has rejected all pending claims (1 through 9) under 35 U.S.C.102(e) as being anticipated by Baseflug et al (US 6,726,021).

Baseflug et al teaches the use of a security cable both as an antitheft device and as a carrying strap. To accomplish the dual use the cable is described and claimed as a device with a locking device at each cable end, each securable with an attachment point on the portable computer or a pair of clips which attach to rings carried by the portable computer. The cable includes padding 28 for use as "a shoulder strap or hand grip". As described in one embodiment the padding 28 is removable "so that the cable 22 is selectively less bulky" by using Velcro to removably secure the strap or padding to the cable. The Velcro functions only to secure the strap portions about the cable and does not operate in whole or in part to retain the strap in a fixed position with respect to the portable computer.

Although the combined security cable/carrying strap of the Baseflug et al reference would be convenient, it does not provide a solution of the problem for the portable computers that are being sold or which are in use currently. A review of the various portable computer brands locally available or in use reveals that although all have a "lock slot" or attachment point and none has been found to have multiple "lock slots". Further, no portable notebook computer has been found that includes a pair of rings which would be adapted to be secured to the clips 34 of one of the reference patent's alternative embodiments. By contrast, the applicants' structure provides the dual function for available portable or notebook computers without modification.

The applicant's device uses a coated security cable with increased width portions which engage the users shoulder and engage and support the portable computer when the cable is passed through the terminal loop and placed in surrounding relation about the side of the portable computer remote from the lock slot. The use of the cable/strap to surround a closed portable computer will not provide secure, reliable support of the computer during transport unless some means is provided to prevent the strap from being displaced and disengaged from the position

surrounding the end of the computer. The applicant provides secured retention of the strap about the computer during transport by placing cooperating hook and loop tape segments on the computer and on the strap portion that engages the computer surface to which the cooperating tape portion is applied.

The applicant's solution provides a combined security cable/carrying strap structure that is achieved while making a minimum modification of the standard security cable which typically provides an elastomer coated steel cable with a lock at one end and a loop at the opposite end. The structure of the dual function cable also recognizes and provides for positively securing the loop end of the cable about the computer when used as a carrying strap. The applicant's structure is usable with any portable or notebook computer that includes a lock slot which is believed to be included in the design of every such computer.

As observed above, the examiner has noted that Baseflug et al makes reference to strips of Velcro (hook and loop material), The reference uses Velcro to enable a strap portion to be removably attached to a security cable to provide the wider strap portion that engages the users shoulder when transporting the computer. The two confronting strap portions are secured about the cable by the Velcro surfaces. There is no suggestion that Velcro would be used to secure the strap to the portable computer being transported as taught by the applicants.

Each claim of the application as now presented, calls for a strap and recites the mode of transport wherein at one end a lock is connected at the lock slot and the other end is passed through the loop and surrounds the portable computer to present an intermediate carrying strap portion that can function as a shoulder strap. Each claim further calls for the means which secures the surrounding strap portion about the portable computer to assure secure attachment of each strap end to the computer during transport. This structure is included in each of the two independent claims, while the remaining dependent claims further define and specify the structure. Each of the claims is believed to patentably distinguish from the principal reference, the art of record or any combination thereof.

The device of the current application, as described and claimed, provides a dual function

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security cable-carrying strap that is of simple design and is effective for use with any portable or notebook computer which includes a lock slot, which is believed to make the combined cable-strap universally applicable without modification to the using computer.

It is believed that the application, as now presented in amended form, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are solicited.

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